

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR ADDING OR  
DROPPING A COMPONENT OF AN OPTICAL SIGNAL

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An optical add/drop multiplexer (10, 110) includes a primary input port (16, 21), an express output port (17, 22), an add input port (18, 23), and a drop output port (19, 24). Radiation from the primary input port is reflected by a thin film filter (26), is routed back to the filter by a redirecting arrangement (38, 151-153, 251), is then reflected again by the filter 26, and then travels to the express output port. A signal component from the primary input port at a predetermined wavelength is extracted by the filter as it effects the first reflection, and is supplied to the drop output port. An add signal from the add input port is directed by the filter to the express output port.